

Open Education Resource University (OERu)

Subject Information and Study Guide

OERu802

Introduction to Human Rights

Autumn Session 2016

Online subject

Teaching Staff

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OERu802 Introduction to Human Rights

Subject Information

Description

This subject will explore the issue of human rights from an interdisciplinary perspective. It will consider the history and philosophy of human rights, and contemporary human rights principles. It will examine major human rights instruments and institutions, and human rights in national and international law. Students will use their conceptual knowledge to analyse human rights discourse through case studies of current issues in the field. Case studies of human rights violations will challenge students to critically reflect on current human rights mechanisms. This subject provides students with foundational knowledge for further research and/or advocacy in the field of human rights.

Objectives/Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this subject, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate a critical understanding of key concepts and challenges in the field of human rights
- Demonstrate knowledge of key human rights principles, instruments and institutions
- Ability to critically analyse current human rights issues
- Elaborate on key challenges associated with upholding human rights internationally
- Ability to critically analyse diverse source material
- Capacity to analyse qualitative and quantitative data
- Develop critical thinking skills
- Effective written and oral communication skills

Participation

This subject requires completion of all online modules.

Timetable

This subject is fully online, commencing 16 May. See: <http://course.oeru.org/global-issues/>

Weekly Outline:

Week / Date	Lecture Topic/Description	Task Due
Week 1 Commencing 16/5/2016 Modules 1 & 2	The History of Human Rights; Philosophical Perspectives on Human Rights	
Week 2 Commencing 23/5/2016 Modules 3 & 4	The Universal Declaration of Human Rights; International Human Rights Law	
Week 3 Commencing 30/5/2016 Modules 5 & 6	The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; The Human Rights Council and the UPR Process	
Week 4 Commencing 6/6/2016 Modules 7 & 8	National Case Studies: Human Rights in Australia; Human Rights in Nth Korea	
Week 5 Commencing 13/6/2016 Modules 9 & 10	The Human Rights Movement; Women's Rights	
Week 6 Commencing 20/6/2016 Modules 11 & 12	Indigenous Rights; Human Rights and Technology	
Week 7		Assignments submitted
Week 8		
Week 9		Online Interviews conducted

* Public holidays for this session are:

- Good Friday – Friday, 25 March
- Easter Monday – Monday 28 March
- Anzac Day – Monday 25 April

Teaching staff will not be working on these days.

Assessment Information

Referencing

For this subject, please use the *footnote* system of referencing, which is fully outlined on the UOW library website: <https://webapps.library.uow.edu.au/refcite/style-guides/html/>

Referencing is an essential component of academic writing or presentation since it enables the reader to follow up the source of ideas and information presented in your work, and to examine the interpretation you place on the material discovered in your research. Reliable referencing clearly indicates where you have drawn your own conclusions from the evidence presented. Importantly, much of the material you will use is covered by copyright which means that you must acknowledge any source of information, including books, journals, newsprint, images and the internet.

It is obligatory for students to reference all sources used in their written work including electronic material. Students should consult the University library website for a detailed explanation and examples of how to reference electronic material correctly: <http://www.library.uow.edu.au/resourcesbytopic/UOW026621.html>

Different programs use different referencing styles to reflect the needs of their discipline. It is the student's responsibility to check which referencing style is used.

Clear examples of how to reference correctly, across a wide variety of source materials, can be found on the UOW Library website:

- Library Resources - Referencing and Citing
<http://www.library.uow.edu.au/resourcesbytopic/UOW026621.html>

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism Policy

We expect that students submit only their own original work for assessment and avoid plagiarising the work of others or cheating. Plagiarism is considered academic misconduct and can have serious consequences. Plagiarism can be detected and may lead to students being expelled from the subject.

Re-using any of your own work (either in part or in full) which you have submitted previously for assessment is not permitted without appropriate acknowledgement.

Submission, Receipt & Collection of Assessment Tasks

Assessments are to be submitted on the due dates and via the submission method specified in each assessment task listed in this Outline. Penalties apply for late submission.

It is the responsibility of the student to keep a copy of all work submitted for assessment.

Late Submission of Assessments

In the absence of an approved request for an extension, assessment tasks must be submitted by 4pm (unless otherwise specified in the Assessment Task information) on the due date. Late work (i.e. any work required for assessment that has not been given an extension) will be subject to a 10% penalty per calendar day. The penalty is applied to the mark awarded. **Work submitted after seven calendar days will not be marked and will be given a mark of 0.**

An assessment task that is submitted after 4pm on any day will be deemed to have been submitted on the next working day. Penalties accrue on each day that the assessment task is late, including Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.

In the absence of an extension having been granted, work submitted beyond seven (7) days of the due date will be accepted only if submission of that assessment is necessary to pass the subject but a mark of 'zero' will be recorded.

Student Review of Mark / Grade

A student may request an explanation of a mark for an assessment task or a final grade for a subject consistent with the student's right to appropriate and useful feedback on their performance in an assessment task. The student should do so by contacting the Subject Coordinator or another member of the subject teaching team within TEN working days after notification to the student of the mark or grade.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment 1: Active Online Participation

Marking:	Marked out of 100 - Percentage of total subject mark 30%
Description:	Students will complete four (4) blog or video tasks, each worth 10% of the final grade. Full details here: http://course.oeru.org/introduction-to-human-rights/assessment/assessment/active-online-participation/
Due Date:	27 June
Format:	Online blog posts/videos
Criteria that will be considered in determining your final mark:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Logical and coherent structure• Depth of understanding of topic• Professional presentation / accurate and stylistically correct referencing (if applicable)• Breadth of research / quality of evidence used to justify position adopted• Engaging writing/presentation
Submission Method:	Electronically

Assessment 2: Major Essay

Marking:	Marked out of 100 - Percentage of total subject mark 40%
Description:	Students will complete a 2000 word essay from a range of options. Full details available here: http://course.oeru.org/introduction-to-human-rights/assessment/assessment/major-essay/
Due Date:	1 July
Format:	2000 word paper (+/- 10% is acceptable), further details available on the website
Criteria that will be considered in determining your final mark:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Logical and coherent structure• Depth of understanding of topic• Professional presentation / accurate and stylistically correct referencing (if applicable)• Breadth of research / quality of evidence used to justify position adopted• Engaging writing
Submission Method:	Electronically

Assessment 3: Online Interview

Marking:	Marked out of 100 - Percentage of total subject mark 30%
Description:	Online interview
Due Date:	Students will be contacted individually to arrange a date, most likely in week commencing 11 July.
Format:	Online interview
Assessment Criteria:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge of course content• Depth of knowledge• Analytical / critical thinking skills• Verbal communication skills
Submission Method:	Online, students will be contacted individually.

Subject Resources and Materials

Set Texts

All set reading material available online on course website.

Recommended Reading / Viewing / Listening

Supplementary material available online on course website.

These resources are recommended and are not intended to be exhaustive. Students are encouraged to use local libraries and online resources to supplement the recommendations with resources you discover through your own research.